(g) Detonators are placed at specified intervals for all train movement to alert the driver of an approaching signal once to*g* is declared at a station. This is done by calling Railway stall on duty and rest for working as Fog Signalmen who place detonators whenever a train is expected. After the passage of each train detonator is replaced. The location of such detonators are before the stop signals so that drivers are warned of approaching signals. The process is repeated for the duration of the fog.

Gauge conversion of Jainagar-Darbhanga-Narkatiyagunj rail line

†74. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the stipulated time limit for completing the work of gauge conversion from existing narrow gauge to broad gauge from Jainagar to Darbhanga and to Narkatiyagunj; and

(b) the latest position of progress in the work of gauge conversion at the said railway division?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) On Jayanagar-Sitamarhi (136 km) section, earthwork and bridge works have been taken up. In Sitamarhi-Raxaul-Narkatiaganj section also earthwork has been taken up. Further, gauge conversion from Narkatiaganj to Bhiknathori (35.80 km.) has been approved as part of the project. The work would be progressed and completed in the coming years, as per availability of resources. As outlay of Rs. 20 cr. has been provided for the project in the Budget 2005-06.

Robberies/crimes in trains

75. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a spate of robberies/crimes have been committed in trains;

(b) if so, the details of such robberies/crimes during the last three years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether any casualties have been reported in these incidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the authorities have paid any compensation to the ' victims of these robberies/crimes;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken to safeguards the journey by passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of incidents of dacoity and robbery in trains reported during the last three years i.e. 2003,2004 and 2005 over Indian Railways are as under:—

Year	Dacoity	Robbery
2003	145	230
2004	107	224
2005	95	174

(c) and (d) During the year 2005,3 passengers were reported to have been killed and 31 injured as against 9 killed and 24 injured in the year 2004 and 14 killed and 11 injured in the year 2003 in the incidents of dacoity/robbery.

(e) and (f) Compensation is paid after a claim is filed in the Railway Claims Tribunal and a decree is awarded. So far Rs. 2,96,299/- have been paid as compensation in 03 cases. 33 cases are pending before the Railway Claims Tribunal.

(g) Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Police. However, to provide better security to the travelling passengers in trains and passenger areas, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) Act, 1957 and the Railways Act,'1989 have been amended to enable the Railways, through the RPF, to effectively supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways. The Railway Protection Force staff are also being deployed to escort many trains and deployed in the passenger area to augment the efforts of the State Governments. RPF

has also been empowered to deal with the minor offences affecting the train operations such as Alarm chain pulling, roof travel, touting, ticket-less travel, unauthorized entry etc. (except Sabotage related offences under Sections 150 to 152) by amending the Railways Act w.e.f. July 2004. The objective was to ensure that the State Police (Government Railway Police) get more man power and time to handle heinous.offences such as Murder, Dacoity, Robbery, Rape etc. including Sabotage and Train Wrecking, under the provisions of Indian Penal Code, the Railways Act and other laws of the land.

Violence on the Merrut-Nauchandi Express

76. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by the railway administration against the Railway Police Personnel and other railway employees for their role/inaction in relation to the incident of violence on the Meerut-Nauchandi Express near Moradabad in the night of 15th January, 2006;

(b) whether any compensation/assistance was extended by the railways to the injured passengers, most of whom were doctors, in that incident; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Government Railway Police/Moradabad registered a case wife crime No. 11/06 dated 17.1.2006 U/S 147/323/504, 307 IPC in connection with the incident of violence on the Meerut Nauchandi Express near Moradabad in the night of 15th January, 2006. Government Railway Police/Moradabad has arrested 08 Constable/Recruits of Uttar Pradesh Police and sent them to jail. Simultaneously, Railway Protection Force/Rampur registered a case *vide* crime No. 48/06 U/S 141, 174 Railways Act against Doctors for their involvement in hooliganism. The Nauchandi Express was under the escort of Government Railway Police/ Meerut. All the Government Railway Police escorting staff have been placed under suspension and departmental enquiry against them is under way.

(b) and (c) Compensation is paid after a claim is filed in the Railway Claims Tribunal and a decree is awarded. Since no compensation claim